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CFI-M-2

25 February 1976

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Draft Minutes of the 25 February 1976
Committee on Foreign Intelligence
Meeting

1. The Committee (CFI) met at 1500 hours on 25 February 1976 at East Building. Director Bush was in the Chair; Deputy Secretary of Defense Ellsworth and Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Hyland, the other members of the CFI attended. Also in attendance were Thomas Latimer of OSD, E. H. Knoche of the DCI's Intelligence Community Staff (ICS) and Richard Lehman, an Assistant to the Director.

2. The minutes of the 18 February 1976 meeting were approved.

25X1 3. [] of the IC Staff gave a status report on current ICS-DoD efforts to develop a paper for CFI consideration next week defining the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP), the process and cycles to be followed with regard to CFI attention to NFIP budgets and programs, and reprogramming guidelines to be adopted by the CFI.

4. Mr. Ellsworth noted that many differing points of view would be encountered in obtaining working level reactions to this definition problem. Distinctions between national and tactical intelligence resources can hardly be expected to be agreed by all but he would be supportive of the CFI's efforts to define the NFIP as constructively as possible. The Chairman advised [] to prepare the paper, complete with pros, cons, agreements and disagreements, in recognition of general intent to give the CFI resource control over the intelligence budget, less tactical intelligence.

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5. The Chairman noted his favorable impression of NRP arrangements and facilities and said he wants to insure that CFI machinery and processes will not bog down program managers and rob them of flexibility and effectiveness.

6. Mr. Bush noted there have been some requests by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and Committees for access to intelligence budgetary data. He pointed to jurisdictional Congressional problems in this regard and said he thought it best to hold off until the House and Senate have resolved current approaches to intelligence oversight and until Appropriations Chairmen McClellan and Mahon have conferred with Budget Committee counterparts. It was agreed that the Director would talk to Senator McClellan and Representative Mahon about this.

7. Mr. Knoche noted that there have been CBO requests for substantive briefings on Soviet and Warsaw Pact military capabilities and expenditures. It was agreed that substantive briefings are a separate question and can be provided.

25X1 8. [] of the IC Staff gave a brief description of progress made to date, and remaining to be made, with regard to improving awareness by tactical commanders of the nature of national collection systems. It was pointed out that continuing attention to this problem could in time lead to significant resource issues of concern to the CFI. The IC Staff is willing to continue its work in this area but needs to know which parts of DoD or JCS to work with. Mr. Ellsworth said he would advise.

25X1 9. [] of the IC Staff gave a brief status report on the study of NSCID's, DCID's, et al and how to revise or rescind them in accordance with the Executive Order on intelligence. It was agreed:

-- That NSCID's would be revised with appropriate classification to insure conformity with the E. O.;

-- There will be no attempt now to devise and issue an omnibus NSCID;

-- Some NSCID's can be rescinded, where the subject is over-taken by the E. O.

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10. In answer to the Chairman's question, [REDACTED] said he thought some revised NSCID's could be put before the CFI at its meeting next week.

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11. It was agreed that CFI directives and memoranda can be issued serially rather than by a numbering system keyed to subject categories.

12. Two draft CFI Memoranda (CFIM No. 1 and No. 2) were approved. The first concerns issuance of CFI directives and memoranda, the second concerns temporary continuation of USIB and its subordinate elements.

13. Discussion of this subject led to a question from Mr. Hyland as to how to arrange for directives on intelligence topics that may be the DCI's responsibility but that are beyond the scope of the CFI. For example, the CFIM on USIB could imply CFI powers in an area of DCI concern.

14. Mr. Ellsworth noted the phrasing in the E. O. charging the CFI with setting "policy priorities for collection and production," phrasing indicating the CFI will have some kind of role in matters of previous concern to USIB.

15. The discussion culminated in agreement that the Staff should develop for next week's CFI meeting a paper defining and delineating the distinctions between CFI, DCI and USIB-type concerns.

16. The proposed CFIM on IRAC's IR&D Council was not approved. Mr. Ellsworth felt it more advisable to subordinate this body to a USIB follow-on rather than to the CFI.

17. Mr. Knoche reported to the CFI on his conversations with two drafters of the E. O. in connection with the CFI responsibility to set "management policy" for national programs. The short of it is that it was intended to provide the CFI with guidance powers that could go beyond narrow resource matters. The CFI, over time, can define the extent to which it may want to issue guidance on such matters, for example, as intelligence personnel development or external contracting.

18. After a short executive session, the meeting adjourned at 1615 hours.

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Attachment
(Summary of Actions)

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Summary of Actions

- a. Chairman to contact Senator McClellan and Representative Mahon re Congressional Budget inquiries.
- b. Joint ICS-DoD paper on NFIP definition, cycles, and reprogramming to be ready for next CFI meeting.
- c. Mr. Ellsworth to advise the IC Staff on DoD/JCS points of contact for work on the "national-tactical problem."
- d. IC Staff to table a paper for the next CFI meeting defining distinctions among CFI, DCI and USIB-type concerns and responsibilities.

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